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FARM PONDS

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MAY 13 1964

Tenn-W-1

Provide Water For Everything From Livestock To Recreation

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Farm ponds are one of the most popular conservation practices in rural America. More than 1,200,000 ponds now dot the countryside and interest in them is not diminishing. Presently farmers and ranchers are asking the Soil Conservation Service for technical help in building ponds at the rate of 53,000 a year as a part of their conservation plans.

Ponds are an important source of water for livestock, recreation, fish and wildlife, irrigation, fire prevention, and orchard spraying. In addition to their practical applications, they add a touch of beauty to the farmstead and countryside and often serve as aquatic study areas for youths and adults.

Today's farm ponds are usually designed for more than one use. They may be built primarily to provide a dependable source of water for livestock, but in addition, they can also be stocked with fish and developed as a source of enjoyment and recreation for the farm family and friends.

Many farmers have developed their pond sites as an additional source of revenue and collect a fee for fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, boating, or hunting.

Many farms and ranches have suitable sites, but skilled technical help is essential in building a successful pond. Fortunately such help is available in most areas of the country. Farmers and ranchers in soil conservation districts can obtain help from the SCS on pond site selection, design, construction, use, management, and recreational development.

In most States the Agricultural Conservation Program will cost share on the construction of the pond provided it meets certain limitations of use and design. State fish and game divisions and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will often aid in stocking the ponds with the desirable species of fish.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Soil Conservation Service

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This one-acre farm pond in Missouri provides livestock water, recreational opportunities and gully control. The pond, stocked with bluegills and bass, is a source of enjoyment to the owners and their friends. Mo.1953

Between these two West Virginio ponds are six minnow spawning pools. The ponds ore used for recreation and commercial production of minnows, which are sold for bait. 79966



This farmer uses water from his three ponds to irrigate his fields. With a total of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of water, he has an ample supply even during long droughts. Va-W66





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Stock water is one of the important functions of many farm ponds. Here cattle in Oklahoma drink at a water tank located below the pond and fed by a pipe running through the dam. Cattle are fenced out of the pond to keep the water clean. Okla-11133



Ponds stocked with fish and well managed will support 400 pounds of bluegills and bass per acre and yield 150 to 200 pounds annually by fishing. Okla-11814



Although fire damage on this Delaware farm was considerable, firemen credited the water supply from the farm pond for saving all but the barn. The pond was built two years before at a cost of \$850. 79804



A New Jersey farmer developed his pond for swimming and boating and sells memberships to families on a yearly basis. Income from the pond is in addition to his regular farming operation.
NJ-40460



Age is no factor when it comes to fishing. Ponds have moved the "ole fishin'" hole closer to home in many areas. Many people willingly pay for the privilege to fish in private ponds.
Tenn-D3-7

Ponds are not limited to summer fun. Here a group of Massachusetts children take to the ice.
Mass-198

